

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MONTER 00678 190019Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 L-03 PA-02 ICA-20 SP-02 SCS-06
/071 W

-----049306 190032Z /15

P 182145Z AUG 78
FM AMCONSUL MONTERREY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3939
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

UNCLAS MONTERREY 0678

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, BBAK, MX
SUBJ: LABOR DISPUTE BETWEEN UNIONS AT PRODUCTOS CORNING DE MEXICO,
S.A., MONTERREY, RESULTS IN ONE WORKER'S DEATH

SUMMARY: PRODUCTOS CORNING DE MEXICO, S.A., PLANT IN MONTERREY
(CORNING DE MEXICO IS 75 PERCENT SUBSIDIARY OF CORNING GLASS
WORKS, CORNING, NEW YORK) WAS SCENE MORNING OF AUGUST 17 OF LABOR
DISPUTE CULMINATING IN SHOOTING DEATH OF ONE WORKER, WOUNDING
OF TWO MORE, AND INJURY OF ABOUT 20 OTHERS. APPROXIMATELY 30
PERSONS WERE ARRESTED AS RESULT OF CONFRONTATION BETWEEN MEMBERS
OF FEDERACION REVOLUCIONARIA DE OBREROS Y CAMPESINOS (CROC),
CURRENT ELECTED UNION AT CORNING, AND ADHERENTS OF CONFEDERACION
DE TRABAJADORES DE MEXICO (CTM), WHO ARE ATTEMPTING TO ORGANIZE
CORNING'S WORK FORCE. END SUMMARY

1. CORNING'S 380 EMPLOYEES VOTED LAST YEAR TO ACCEPT REPRESENTATION
BY CROC. CTM HAS HOTLY DISPUTED THAT ELECTION AND THIS WEEK HAS
MADE CONCERTED EFFORT TO ORGANIZE CORNING WORK FORCE. CTM ORGANI-
ZERS HAVE BEEN CANVASSING CORNING WORKERS THROUGHOUT WEEK IN EFFORT
TO OBTAIN NEW VOTE ON REPRESENTATION ISSUE. VOTE WAS HELD OUTSIDE
FACTORY AFTERNOON OF AUGUST 16, WITH MAJORITY OF ATTENDEES REPORTEDLY
VOTING FOR CTM. CTM LEADERS ASKED JUNTA LOCAL DE CONCILIACION Y
ARBITRAJE TO APPROVE LIGITIMACY OF VOTE AND SENT SOME 100 CTM MEMBERS
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TO "CLOSE THE PLANT UNTIL ISSUE CAN BE CLARIFIED".

2. BY MORNING AUGUST 17, CTM HAD CLOSED PLANT TIGHTLY WITH SOME 85
CORNING EMPLOYEES TRAPPED INSIDE. AT ABOUT 8 A.M., A BUS LOAD OF CRO
C
ADHERENTS ARRIVED TO ATTEMPT TO CLEAR PATH TO FRONT GATE AND ALLOW
COMPATRIOTS DEPARTURE. WEAPONS WERE FLASHED, WORDS WERE EXCHANGED,

AND BATTLE RESULTED. POLICE FORCES, PREVIOUSLY CALLED TO SCENE BY CORNING MANAGEMENT, TOOK NO ACTION TO PREVENT CONFRONTATION BETWEEN UNION GROUPS.

3. ORDER WAS RESTORED SOME TWO HOURS LATER, AFTER 30 PERSONS HAD BEEN ARRESTED AND DEAD AND INJURED REMOVED FROM SCENE. FEDERAL AUTHORITIES ORDERED POLICE TO PREVENT FURTHER ACTS OF VIOLENCE, BUT DID NOT REMOVE CTM BLOCK ON PLANT ENTRANCE. ABOUT 100 SECURITY PERSONNEL ARE MAINTAINING ORDER AROUND PLANT PERIMETER BUT CORNING WORKERS ARE STILL BEING HELD INSIDE PLANT.

4. CORNING MANAGEMENT HAS TOLD US THEY EXPECT WORKERS WILL BE RELEASED FROM PLANT THIS EVENING, AUGUST 18, UNDER POLICE PROTECTION. HOWEVER, MANAGEMENT WOULD NOT COMMENT ON WHEN PLANT MIGHT RESUME NORMAL OPERATION.

5. LOCAL PRESS HAS REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT OF THE CHAMBER OF MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, ALBERTO SANTOS DE HOYOS, HAS PLACED ENTIRE BLAME FOR INCIDENT ON GOVERNOR OF NUEVO LEON, DR. PEDRO ZORRILLA MARTINEZ. SANTOS IS QUOTED AS SAYING: "THE ATTITUDE OF THE GOVERNOR HAS NOT ONLY TOLERATED VIOLENT ACTS OF THIS TYPE, BUT HAS ALSO FOMENTED AND INCITED THEM".

6. NO AMERICANS WERE INVOLVED IN FRACAS OR HELD IN PLANT AGAINST
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THEIR WILL.
MCLENDON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR, DISPUTES, LABOR UNIONS, DEATHS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MONTER00678
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780339-0113
Format: TEL
From: MONTERREY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780849/aaaabono.tel
Line Count: 96
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fde86f61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1695791
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LABOR DISPUTE BETWEEN UNIONS AT PRODUCTOS CORNING DE MEXICO, S.A., MONTERREY, RESULTS IN ONE WORKER'S DEATH SUMMARY: PRODUCTOS CORNING DE MEXICO, S. A., PLANT
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, BBAK, MX, PRODUCTOS CORNING DE MEXICO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fde86f61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014